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A REVIEW OF TRUCK CROP PRODUCTION

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U.S. Department of Agriculture

Broadcast by E. J. Rowell, Agricultural Marketing Service, Wednesday, September 10, 1941, in the Department of Agriculture period, National Farm and Home Hour over the blue network of the National Broadcasting Company.

KADDERLY:

Yesterday afternoon the Department's marketing service issued reports covering a number of truck crops. These reports give some idea of the supplies of fresh vegetables which will reach the market this fall. E. J. "Mike" Rowell of the Agricultural Marketing Service is here to give us some of the more important items from that report.

ROWELL:

First a few words about the weather. During the latter part of August the weather was more favorable for growing vegetables. Rains in the Northeast were of considerable help to such late crops as cabbage, cauliflower, and carrots. While in the Gulf States and much of the Southeast during the past few weeks weather conditions made it possible for growers to get their land ready for fall planting of vegetables. In the Pacific Northwest warm rains and lower temperatures slowed up harvesting, but in general they were a help to late truck crops. In California during late August the weather was the kind which makes vegetables grow. So much for the weather influence.

It's estimated that about 3 percent fewer acres of fresh vegetables will be available this fall than last year, but, and this is an important but, the quantity of vegetables which will go to market this fall is expected to be about 13 percent above the ten-year average.

Getting more specific, cabbage production in the late States is expected to be about 12 percent less than the August 1 estimate, but a slightly larger crop than we had last year. Eight percent more carrots. Good supplies of cauliflower, both from New York and Colorado. Colorado celery supplies are expected to increase although the September 1 estimate of production of celery in the late States is about 6 percent less than a year ago. Crop conditions for onions improved greatly during the past month. Indications on September 1 were for a crop 3 percent bigger than expected on August 1, but 12 percent below the tonnage of last year.

Now a word about tomatoes. Cool weather in August delayed maturity of much of the crop in the late States. Production is estimated to be about one-sixth bigger than last year, with production in Southern California about one-fifth below last year.

There are 15 percent fewer acres of lettuce being grown for harvest in the late States this fall than were grown last year. Most of the decrease is accounted for in the Salinas-Watsonville area of California.

Those are a few of the highlights from the Department's report on truck crops.

KADDERLY:

And tomorrow you will be with us to give us the highlights of the general crop report.

